

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5217

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 4129

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BDIS, EMIN, EGEN, OCON, PFOR, PE, JA

SUBJECT: MINES MINISTER STATES THAT GOP USING MARCONA
NEGOTIATING POSITION AS BASIS FOR BUY-OUT DISCUSSIONS

REF: LIMA 4096

1. ACCORDING TO LIMA PRESS MAY 20, MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES JORGE FERNANDEZ MALDONADO TOLD CAEM STUDENTS (PERUVIAN NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE) PREVIOUS DAY THAT THE GOP HAS BEGUN DISCUSSIONS WITH MARCONA MINING COMPANY TO ASSURE THE TRANSFER OF MARCONA TO THE STATE "BASED ON PROPOSITIONS FORMULATED BY THAT MINING COMPANY". (COMMENT: MINISTER'S REMARKS WERE CARRIED IN SEVERAL LIMA DAILIES, BUT NO MENTION OF MARCONA WAS CARRIED IN THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF HIS REMAKRS PUBLISHED IN THE GOP GAZETTE.)

2. AT SAME TIME, "LA CRONICA" CARRIED STORY REPORTING A DENUNCIATION OF MARCONA BY THE WORKERS UNION AT MARCONA, WHO CLAIMED THAT FIGURES PRESENTED BY THE COMPANY CONTRADICT THE "TRUE ECONOMIC STATE OF THE COMPANY". WORKERS BASED THEIR CLAIM ON A SINAMOS AUDIT OF COMPANY BOOKS, AND SAID THAT MARCONA HAS FALSELY CLAIMED LOSSES OF S/400 MILLION IN 1974 INORDER TO DEFRAUD THE WORKERS OF BONUSES AND OTHER BENEFITS DUE THEM.

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3. COMMENT: MINISTER'S STATEMENT IS MILDLY ENCOURAGING
IN THAT GOP HAS NOW PUBLICLY ADMITTED THAT MARCONA'S
CLAIM IS AT LEAST WORTH SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. IT ALSO
INDICATES THAT NEGOTIATIONS MAY WELL CONTINUE IN COMING
WEEKS. UNDERLYING MOTIVATION MAY BE FACT THAT GOP
HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO RESOLVE MARCONA
ISSUE, POSSIBLY WITH AN EYE TO ANNOUNCING NATIONALIZATION
AT TIME OF JULY 28 INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES (SEE SEPARATE
REPORTING.)
DEAN

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NNN

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